

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Election filing ended Friday

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Republican nominations for both mayors in the county will be contested.

They are two of only five contested primary races.

Filing for the 2023 municipal elections wrapped up at noon Friday with the races for the GOP nominations for mayor of Portland and mayor of Dunkirk highlighting the primary ballot.

Other contested races are for Republican nominations for Dunkirk City Council District 1, Redkey Town Council at-large and Pennville clerk-treasurer.

The race for the GOP nomination for mayor of Portland is the most crowded, as incumbent John Boggs has three challengers. Trying to knock him off are Joel Smitley, who works for McAfee Recycling, Portland police dispatcher Jeff Westlake and retired Portland police officer Todd Wickey.

Former mayor Randy Geesaman is uncontested in the Democratic primary.

Boggs defeated Geesaman in the 2019 general election after being uncontested in the primary.

Two candidates are seeking the Republican nomination for mayor of Dunkirk with hopes of a general election meeting with incumbent Democrat Jack Robbins, who is uncontested in the pri-

Portland, Dunkirk GOP mayoral races are contested

mary. Jay Miller, who served 20 years in the military and worked as a call center manager before retiring about four years ago, will take on Alden Glessner, who worked in commercial heating and air conditioning and now owns rental properties, for the GOP bid.

Incumbent Krista Scholer, a Republican, is facing a primary challenge for Lindsay Wright for Pennville clerk-treasurer.

For Dunkirk City Council's District 1 seat, incumbent Republican Kevin Hamilton is facing a challenge from Randy Murphy.

Two Republicans — David Dudelston and Brenda Beaty — are vying for one spot available in the general election for Redkey Town Council at-large.

Incumbents who chose not to seek re-election include Janet Powers for Portland City Council at-large, Don Gillespie for Portland City Council District 4, Bryan Jessup for Dunkirk City Council District 2 and Tom Johnson for Dunkirk City Council at-large.

See Election page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Dancing king

Luke Vormohr celebrates after being crowned the champion of a dance off held at halftime of Friday night's Class 3A Sectional 24 semifinal game between Jay County High School and host Hamilton Heights. Unfortunately for the Patriot faithful, the happiness ended there. After falling behind by 18 in the opening half, Class 3A No. 2 JCHS was unable to mount a serious comeback threat as its season came to an end with a 58-47 loss. For details on the game, see page 8.

Commissioners stick to same plan

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

The county will stay with the same insurance this year.

Jay County Commissioners opted to renew the county's plan with liability insurance provider Bliss McKnight for one year during a special meeting Friday, citing a few benefits that edged the group over its competitor.

Commissioners recently received quotes from its current provider — it is represented by Bixler Insurance of Portland — and Tokio Marine, which was offered by Portland Insurance. Its current plan expires Monday.

Switching to the new provider initially would have saved the county about \$17,000 per premium prices. (Conner Cox of

Bixler Insurance pointed out that doesn't include an estimated \$8,100 more the county would pay for automobile deductibles with the new company.)

Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton asked if Tokio Marine would provide training similar to Bliss McKnight. He noted the company offers several trainings for officers as well as other county departments at

no additional cost. (Confirming a question from commissioner Rex Journay, Cox said the company pays \$7,200 on the county's behalf for trainings.)

John Dickerson of Burnham and Flower Insurance, who stood in for Kyle Champ of Portland Insurance during the meeting, explained the company could offer trainings. However, they would not count

as certified continued education credits, which police are required to maintain over time. He suggested the county could use the savings from switching companies and invest in training through other resources.

Tokio Marine offers higher liability limits, explained Dickerson.

See Plan page 2

Retrospect

JC repeated as champion

Twenty-five years ago this week, the Patriots were celebrating their second sectional championship in a row.

The Feb. 2, 1998, edition of The Commercial Review featured coverage of the Jay County High School wrestling team edging Winchester by 1.5 points to win the sectional championship in a four-team tournament that also including Union City and Randolph Southern.

The tournament came down to the heavyweight championship match, where the Patriots needed either a technical fall or a pin to earn the victory. Aric Hartvig delivered putting the shoulders of Winchester's Beau Fidler to the mat to give JCHS the championship.

"This is just great," said Hartvig after the win. "I knew I needed to get the pin, and it feels great to get it."

The chance at a repeat title wasn't looking good for the Patriots early as senior Heath Alexander's title at 119 pounds was their only win in the lower weight classes. They suffered losses at 125, 135, 140 and 145 pounds.

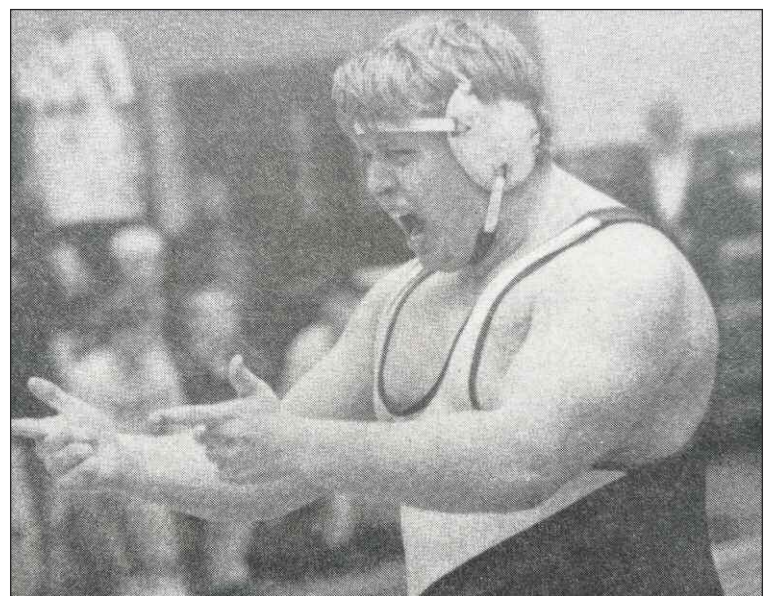
Shawn Jordan got the Jay County comeback going with a pin of Winchester's Michael Coates at 152 pounds. Chris Nichols (160) pinned Kevin Abernathy of Winchester to continue closing the gap, and wins from Jason Million (189) in overtime over Chad Mills and James Brewster (215) put Jay

County in position for Hartvig to be the hero.

"When things look to be at their lowest, someone steps up and brings us back up," said JCHS coach Craig Campbell after the comeback victory. "Everyone on this team wrestled hard. I'm tickled to death."

The victory sent the Patriots to the team regional at New Castle.

Thirteen JCHS wrestlers — Joe VanSkyock, Randy Timmerman, Shawn Jordan, Heath Alexander, Corrie West, Bucky LeMaster, Brandon Guingrich, Jeremiah Abbott, Chris Nichols, Kurt Hilgefurd Jason Million, James Brewster and Aric Hartvig — earned individual regional berths.



The Commercial Review

Aric Hartvig of Jay County High School celebrates on Jan. 31, 1998, after his pin of Winchester's Beau Fidler lifted the Patriots to the sectional championship.

Deaths

Dora Hitchens, 95, Winamac

Don Elder, 90, Plymouth

Ricardo Alvarado, 31, Geneva

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 20 early Friday.

A high of 38 is expected today with winds gusting to 35 miles per hour. Windy conditions will continue through the weekend with a high of 43 Sunday. Expect a high of 44 on Monday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon today in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamon Fire Station.

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from today's JCHS wrestling regional tournament.

Wednesday — Coverage of Tuesday's Portland Park Board meeting.



Obituaries

Dora Hitchens

April 22, 1927-Feb. 1, 2023
Dora Evelyn Hitchens, 95, of Winamac, Indiana, formerly of Dunkirk, Indiana, passed away peacefully Feb. 1, 2023, at the Pulaski Health Care Center.



Evelyn was born in Winchester, Indiana, on April 22, 1927, a daughter of the late Bertha Hitchens Catherine (Green) and Noah Monroe. She was the widow of the late James Robert Hitchens; he preceded her in death on Feb. 22, 2000.

She was formerly employed by Indiana Glass Company in Dunkirk, Indiana.

Evelyn was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church and the Dunkirk American

Legion Auxiliary. She had seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Evelyn is survived by a son, Charles David Hitchens (wife: Nancy); daughter-in-law Jenny Hitchens; and one sister, Barbara Crist (husband: Jimmy).

She was preceded in death by one son, Tony Randall Hitchens; two brothers, Jesse Monroe (wife: Mary) and George Monroe; one sister, Mary Wilker; sister-in-law Elsie Jennings; and two grandchildren, David Hitchens (son of Tony and Jenny Hitchens) and Christina D. (Hitchens) Rife (daughter of Dave and Nancy Hitchens).

Friends are invited to visit Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, from noon to 2 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. with Chris Ingram officiating.

Burial will be held at Dunkirk IOOF Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries.

Donald Elder

Dec. 2, 1932-Feb. 1, 2023

Donald Eugene Elder, age 90, of Plymouth, Indiana, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, in Signature Healthcare in Bremen, Indiana.

He was born in Winchester, Indiana on Dec. 2, 1932, the son of John and Helen (Johnson) Elder. He was married Aug. 16, 1953, to Virginia I. Smiley and she passed away on May 9, 2013.

Don was a school teacher and retired in 1992 as principal of Monroe Central High School

in Randolph County. Don graduated from Union City High School and received his bachelor's, master's and administrative degrees from Ball State University.

He was a member of Theta Chi Fraternity, attended Church of Christ church in Decatur and Portland and Oswego Calvary Baptist Church. He was an avid golfer, loved spending time on the lake and enjoyed attending his grandkids' sporting events.

Surviving are two sons, John Elder (wife: Pamela) of Porter, Texas, and Kurt Elder of Plymouth, Indiana; one daughter, Kelli Hacha (husband: Terry) of Plymouth, Indiana; eight grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren and one great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, John Ross Elder. Funeral services will be Mon-

day, Feb. 6, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home in Portland with Pastor Gil Alicea presiding. Burial will follow in the Salamonia Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday from noon to 2 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Alzheimers Foundation.

Condolences may be shared at bairdfreeman.com.

Ricardo Alvarado, 31, Geneva. Arrangements are pending at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Sunday 2/5	Monday 2/6	Tuesday 2/7	Wednesday 2/8	Thursday 2/9
43/26	44/39	51/30	51/40	54/39
Another day of mostly cloudy skies is in the works for Sunday with a low of 26.	More mostly sunny skies are expected Monday. The high will be about 44.	Tuesday has a 30% chance of rain. Otherwise, cloudy.	Another slight chance of rain Wednesday with a low temperature of 40.	There's a 50% chance of showers Wednesday with highs in the low 50s.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 4-6-1 Daily Four: 9-8-7-5 Quick Draw: 6-17-20-21-26-29-36-39-45-47-48-49-50-53-62-63-69-76-79-80	Pick 4: 0-9-7-7 Pick 5: 8-9-0-7-9
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 1-3-5	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$20 million
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$700 million	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.88 Dec. corn.....6.90 Wheat.....7.44	Wheat.....6.97 July wheat.....7.47
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.92 March corn.....6.94 April corn.....7.00	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.76 Late Feb. corn.....6.76 Beans.....15.20 Late Feb. beans.....15.22 Wheat.....7.47
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.88 March corn.....6.88 Beans.....15.17 March beans.....15.27	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.47 March corn.....6.52 Beans.....14.97 March beans.....15.02 Wheat.....7.11

Today in history

In 1789, George Washington was elected the first president of the United States. He took office later that year on April 30.

In 1861, the Confederate States of America was established by six states in Montgomery, Alabama. It disbanded four years later.

In 1913, Rosa Parks was born in Tuskegee, Alabama. Parks played a crucial role in launching the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 after when refused to give up her bus seat to a white man.

In 1931, Betty Friedan was born. A feminist, Friedan founded the National Organization of Women in 1966.

In 1941, the United Service Organizations (USO) was incorporated in New York. It catered to members of the United States Armed Forces.

In 2004, Facebook was founded by Mark Zuckerberg. After just under two decades online, the social media service has more than 1 billion regular users.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, school-house community center.
Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	Wednesday 6 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6:45 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Hiring rate surged in January

By **AUGUSTA SARAIVA**

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

The U.S. labor market burned red-hot in January as hiring unexpectedly surged and unemployment fell to a 53-year low, defying recession forecasts and adding pressure on the Federal Reserve to keep raising interest rates.

Nonfarm payrolls increased 517,000 last month after an upwardly revised 260,000 gain in December, a Labor Department report showed Friday. The unemployment rate dropped to 3.4%, the lowest since May 1969 and average hourly earnings grew at steady clip.

Hiring topped all esti-

mates in a Bloomberg survey of economists, which called for a 188,000 gain in payrolls and for the unemployment rate to rise to 3.6%.

Earlier this week, stocks and Treasuries rallied as investors saw greater hope of a near-term Fed pause. Friday's report erased that optimism, as the S&P 500

opened lower and Treasury yields surged. Swaps traders boosted where they see the peak of the Fed's hiking cycle to nearly 5% around midyear.

Hiring was broad-based across sectors, led by leisure and hospitality, professional and business services and health care.

Election ...

Continued from page 1
Others who are uncontested in the primary are:

Democrats — Incumbent Jack Robbins for mayor of Dunkirk, incumbent Lori Aker-Phillips for Portland clerk-treasurer, incumbent Tina Elliott for Dunkirk clerk-treasurer, incumbent Mary Eley for Redkey clerk-treasurer, incumbent Dave Golden for Portland City Council at-large, Judy Aker for Portland City Council District 5, Donna Revolt for Dunkirk City Council District 2, and "Watermel-

lon" Jim Phillips for Redkey Town Council at-large

Republicans — Incumbent Donald Gillespie for Portland City Court judge, Larry Nuckols and Ashley Hilfiker for Portland City Council at-large (two seats), incumbent Matt Goldsworthy for Portland City Council District 1, incumbent Michele Brewster for Portland City Council District 3, Ron May for Portland City Council District 4, Dan Watson for Dunkirk City Council at-large, Jacqueline Miller for Dunkirk City Council District 2,

incumbent Jesse Bivens for Dunkirk City Council District 3, incumbent Christy Curts for Dunkirk City Council District 4, Glory May for Redkey clerk-treasurer, Joshua Miller for Pennville Town Council at-large, Carrie Minnich for Bryant clerk-treasurer, and Gregg Ellenberger and Randall Boice for Bryant Town Council at-large (three seats)

Mike Aker, an independent, filed to run for Portland City Council District 2. Independents do not appear on the primary ballot.

Felony arrests

Assisting criminal

A man was arrested Friday for assisting a criminal.

Erick Perez, 31, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for assisting a criminal

along with a Class A misdemeanor for interference with reporting a crime, a Class A misdemeanor.

He's being held on a \$4,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Plan ...

Continued from page 1
The company would offer \$5 million in excess liability limits with an additional \$1 million in underlying limits compared to Bliss McKnight's base limits of \$3 million. (Steve Stockton of Bixler Insurance noted they have quoted higher limits before.)

Commissioner Chad Aker asked if the county had gotten close to its limit in years past. Stockton and Cox confirmed they had not.

"Well, the thing is you

don't know when that claim is going to happen," added Dickerson. "All it takes is somebody looking the wrong way driving."

He referenced the Indiana Tort Claims Act, legislation in place that dates back to 1974. The law stipulates a \$700,000 cap per claimant in tort cases with a \$5 million limit per occurrence. And for trips across the state line, he added, Ohio doesn't cap its tort claims.

Aker noted the county wasn't unhappy with its current coverage, instead pointing to the county's tight budget as a reason for looking into other options.

Commissioner Brian McGalliard asked auditor Emily Franks her thoughts on working with Bliss McKnight, which has provided liability insurance for several years.

"Amazing, incredible," she said. "I wish every vendor was like that. You call them up, and it's never a 'no.'"

Commissioners noted the free trainings and positive history with Bliss McKnight as reasons to stick with the company. They agreed to renew an agreement with the group for another year at \$334,898. McGalliard also proposed they look into bumping their liability limits higher.

Also Friday, commissioners preliminarily OK'd Newton to apply for a grant for body cameras, which is due Feb. 17. Chief deputy Ben Schwartz said they're hoping to buy 20 devices with the 50/50 matching grant.

SERVICES

Saturday
Ludwig, Jerry: 3 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Monday
Elder, Donald: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Reef, Breanna: 6 p.m., Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 190 S. Union St., Pennville.

Thursday
Hitchens, Dora: 2 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

May 13
Warrick, Clarice: 11 a.m., West Richmond Friends Meeting, 609 W. Main St., Richmond.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Jay County Sheriff's Department
is now taking applications for
Custodial and light Maintenance.
Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:30pm
Benefits included \$16.78/hr
Accepting Applications Until February 10th
Applications may be picked up at the Jay County Sheriff's Department
224 W. Water St., Portland. E.O.E.

Swiss Village
PRN RESIDENTIAL/ ASSISTED LIVING NURSE
Swiss Village, Inc. is now seeking a PRN Residential/Assisted Living Nurse to provide nursing services to residents in Assisted Residential, Residential Living, and Independent Living. This position will be on an as-needed basis with varying day shift and evening shift hours. Candidates must be a graduate of an accredited School of Nursing and be currently licensed in the State of Indiana as a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse. Candidates must exhibit a cooperative and positive attitude towards co-workers and residents.
Apply online at swissvillage.org, in-person, or send Resume to:
Taylor Lehman, VP of Human Resources
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

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Fort Recovery announces honor roll

Fort Recovery High School recently announced its second quarter honor roll.

Making the list with All A's were seniors Elizabeth Alig, Danielle Braun, Jacob Heitkamp, Chase Kaiser, Megan Knapke, Alayna Laux, Miranda Metzger, Sophia Pearson, Alexis Wendel and Faith Wendel.

Also juniors Natalie Brunswic, Chloe Bupp, Alex Dues, Megan Evers, Teigen Fortkamp, Carson Grube, Paige Guggenbiller, Trevor Heitkamp, Troy Homan, Abby Keller, Saige Leuthold,

Mara Pearson and Brynn Stammen.

Also sophomores Layla Bihn, Nicole Braun, Kassy Dues, Ava Englehardt, Marlee Fiely, Sarah Fritz, Ava Grisez, Brooke Hart, Kayla Heitkamp, Eva Kahlig, Joelle Kaup, Gabe Knapke, Bailie Muhlenkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Karlie Niekamp, Ben Reinhard, Anna Roessner, Ella Schoen, Mara Wenning, and Emma Will.

Also freshmen Gabe Acheson, Evvie Briner, Rylee Bupp, Elisa Evers, Alivia Grube, Aubrie Heitkamp, Jameson

Heitkamp, Madison Heitkamp, Olivia Knapke, Cora Kremer, Lily Schwiterman, Megan Weitzel, Georgia Wenning and Leah Wuebker.

Named to the honor roll for earning A's and B's were seniors Betsey Braun, Lydia Brunswick, Audra Bupp, Chloe Coleman, Megan Diller, Ngan Do, Nikki Froning, Allysen Fullenkamp, Maddie Guggenbiller, MacKenzie Hart, Brooke Jutte, Makensie Kaffenberger, Emma Keller, Grace Klingshirm, Pete Klingshirm, Isaac LeFevre, Derek Lennartz, Luke

McCain, Megan Metzger, Landon Post, Caleb Rammel, Ava Schoen, Zane Shauer, Carson Sieftring, Amy Stammen, Isaac Timmerman, Caitlin Weitzel, Lindsey Wendel and Taylor Will.

Also juniors Lucas Acheson, Wes Bechtol, Arwyn Beitler, Myah Breen, Katie Bruns, Kenadie Ervin, Alex Evers, Reece Evers, Gavin Faller, Kensey Gaerke, Reece Guggenbiller, Jenna Hart, Autumn Jutte, Lydia Kahlig, Allison Knapke, Ella Kremer, Drew Langenkamp, Joscie LeFevre, Rex Leverette, Kiana Gar-

land, Liberty Pohlman, Matthew Romer, Libby Schlarman, Marissa Schoen, Cole Shoemaker, Tiffany Taft, Riggs Tobe, Cali Wendel, Sage Wendel, Ellie Will, and Brooklyn Weyerick.

Also sophomores Drew Backs, Alivia Bergman, Madison Bihn, Samantha Brackman, Mason Diller, Evan Evers, Gavin Evers, Caden Grisez, Kyle Huntsman, Lindsey Knapke, Emily Lauber, Nevaeh Lennartz, Norah Meyer, Keegan Muhlenkamp, Aleigha Overman, Kylie Post, Zach Schoenlein, Krui-

Sieftring, Bella Taft, Cooper Thompson and Eowyn Vela.

Also Freshmen Ella Bechtol, Aiden Brunswick, Emma Coleman, Kyla Dues, Zoe Dues, Zack Ervin, Yaneth Esparza, Josh Evers, Malory Evers, Carson Fullenkamp, Alex Gaerke, Brodie Hart, Maleiah Kaf-fenberger, Cayson Kaikala, Wes Keller, Brylee Kremer, Reece LeFevre, Autumn Leuthold, Luke Lochtefeld, Anthony Roessner, Dani Schmitt, Jesse Springer, Reece Wendel and Tyler Wendel.

One-night stand leads to mixed feelings

DEAR ABBY: During a trip to Las Vegas, I kind of had a one-night stand. I'm in a relationship. I felt bad afterward. Problem is, I started having feelings for this guy, "Leo." We would message back and forth, more on my end than his. I guess you could say I was hung up on him. I have since mended my relationship with my partner.

My issue is, Leo is best friends with my best friend's husband. When he visits, I am excluded, which means I can't hang out with her. I tell her we are all adults, we are not in high school and can be in the same room with each other. It's not fair to me. Are my feelings justified? Any advice? — FEELING SHUNNED ON THE WEST COAST

DEAR FEELING: This isn't all about YOUR feelings. You stated that you feel you can be in the same room with your best friend, her husband and Leo socially. Hasn't it occurred to you that Leo may not be as open-minded about that fling as you are? Seeing

Dear Abby
you may make him feel guilty. This may be a case of "what happens in Vegas" not only not staying in Vegas, but also having repercussions. See your best friend when Leo isn't around.

DEAR ABBY: Last year, my dear hubby went to the doctor for back pain. Within a week he had been diagnosed with incurable cancer. He's in treatment, and we hope he will have a long remission, but it has been a very stressful year filled with health issues.

I am now due for my annual checkup, and I'm extremely anxious about it. I'm no spring chicken. I have some issues (high blood pressure, over-

weight), and I'm terrified she will tell me something awful is wrong. I have been crying for a week now, and I'm almost to the point of canceling my appointment. How do I overcome this extreme anxiety? — FEARING THE WORST IN OHIO

DEAR FEARING: You may be having extreme anxiety because with a sick husband, you are living with extreme pressure. Pick up that phone, tell your physician exactly what's going on and ask her to prescribe something to calm your nerves before the appointment. Under no circumstances should you cancel it because you are afraid of what you might hear! If anything is wrong, it's important to nip it in the bud before it progresses.

DEAR ABBY: I have been on phone calls recently with a married friend when the spouse will suddenly chime in, without my knowing they were listening. There are times when I want a conversation to be pri-

vate with only one person. What's the polite way to make this happen in a world of speakerphones? — CONFIDENTIAL IN INDIANA

DEAR CONFIDENTIAL: The way to handle it is to tell the married person you would like to know if someone is within earshot because you want your conversation to be private. And if it happens again, convey sensitive information to that person only face-to-face.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 55-year-old woman who had a few good jobs earlier in my career, which enabled me to buy a lovely townhouse in New England. I now work as a consultant, and I no longer earn the same kind of money I did back then. My problem: About 20 years ago, my parents borrowed money from me to fix their home so they could sell it. After it sold, not only did they not pay me back, but they moved in with me. It was supposed to be temporary, but they have been staying here rent-free

for the last five years. In addition to my frustration with my parents, my sister (who is in her 40s) was living down south with her boyfriend when their relationship imploded. So she moved back to New England and moved in with us. She is not paying rent either and brought her two dogs with her. I am at my wits' end. Please give me some advice. — GOING BONKERS IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR GOING BONKERS: You have been patient and tolerant for far too long. You have been a pushover. Contact an attorney for help, because you may have to evict these relatives. Grow a backbone and TELL your parents you want them not only to move but to take your sister and her dogs with them. I SINCERELY hope you have something in writing memorializing the loan you gave your folks because, if you don't, you probably will not see that money again. (Sorry.)

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email news@thecr.com.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

Sudoku

			4					8
4			5	3		2		
	7	8		1				
		1			5		3	
		2	1	7			8	
					4			
3				6		7		
	5					2	1	

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

1	3	4	7	5	2	6	8	9
6	9	2	4	8	1	5	7	3
5	8	7	9	3	6	4	1	2
2	1	3	8	6	7	9	5	4
9	7	8	5	4	3	1	2	6
4	6	5	1	2	9	7	3	8
7	4	6	3	1	8	2	9	5
8	2	1	6	9	5	3	4	7
3	5	9	2	7	4	8	6	1

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?
For Jay County Schools
February 6-10
Monday: Main Entrees: Chicken waffle, breakfast syrup
Alternate Entrees: PB&J fun lunch, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing Sides for all meals: Hash brown patty
Tuesday: Main Entrees: Classic cheeseburger in bun
Alternate Entrees: PB&J fun lunch, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing Sides for all meals: Baked crinkle fries
Wednesday: Main Entrees: Sweet & sour chicken, brown fried rice, fortune cookies Alternate Entrees: PB&J fun lunch, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing Sides for all meals: Glazed carrots
Thursday: Main Entrees: Classic cheese pizza, classic pepperoni pizza Alternate Entrees: PB&J fun lunch, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing Sides for all meals: Savory green beans
Friday Main Entrees: Mini turkey corn dogs Alternate Entrees: PB&J fun lunch, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing Sides for all meals: Steamed broccoli florets
WJCC WEST JAY COMMUNITY CENTER
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We're stuck living with the liars

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tribune News Service

Long before his own #MeToo demise as a U.S. senator, satirist Al Franken wrote a shocking investigative exposé of politicians and pundits who — prepare yourself — don't always tell the truth. The subtly titled book, "Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them," caused upheaval in Washington and led to a bipartisan national shake-up in politics. Politicians forever ended the practice of lying.

Oops. Correction: It actually got worse than ever, including the election of a president who reportedly lied more than 30,000 times in his single term.

Lying is not technically against the law, but it might be

Guest Editorial

time for greater legislative clarity on the matter of deliberately deceiving the public for political or financial gain. Kansas City's former communications director, Chris Hernandez, is suing his ex-employers, saying they demoted him when he refused to lie on behalf of City Manager Brian Platt. The city, which disputes the accusation, is arguing in court that, even if officials did lie, deliberately

misleading the public isn't illegal.

Increasingly across the country, the truth is on trial. The American public has been yanked so many different ways by falsehoods presented as fact that people simply don't know whom to believe anymore. Millions bought the lie that coronavirus vaccines are part of a government plot. Millions more believe the 2020 presidential election was stolen. Similar lies were behind the hammer attack that hospitalized then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband. Falsehoods are hardly harmless. People can die.

Fox News is currently in court defending itself for having advanced the lie that Dominion

Voting Systems helped rig the 2020 presidential election against President Donald Trump. Fox doesn't deny the lies. Rather, it questions whether the lies caused actual harm.

Fox's Tucker Carlson defended himself in a 2020 slander lawsuit by arguing that the things he says on television are clearly exaggerations and aren't supposed to be believed by viewers. He won.

The big question hanging over Congress these days is whether Rep. George Santos, R-N.Y., should be ousted over his serial lying to win election. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy says that he won't fire Santos based on his massive biographical fraud. Rather, he'll only be ousted if Santos' lies broke the law.

Should lying be illegal? In 2005, Congress actually tried to criminalize lying about military service with the Stolen Valor Act. In 2012, the Justice Department tried to prosecute Xavier Alvarez for having claimed to be a Marine combat veteran and recipient of the Medal of Honor. The Supreme Court, however, sided with Alvarez. As frustrating and offensive as falsehoods might be, they are protected speech under the First Amendment, the court ruled.

Lies provoke outrage, for sure. But unless actual physical or financial harm can be proven, Americans will simply have to live with all these lying liars and the lies they tell.

Tax misery has lots of company

By LARRY DEBOER
HSPA Infonet

Farmland assessments for property taxes are going up. So are home, rental housing and business assessments. Property tax misery has lots of company.

Farmland assessments start with a base rate per acre. The base rate is a statewide number calculated each year by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. The base rate for taxes this year is \$1,500 per acre, up 16% from \$1,290 last year. The DLGF just announced that the base rate for taxes next year will be \$1,900, a 27% increase. The base rate is adjusted for soil productivity and sometimes factors that reduce yields, to set the assessed value for each acre.

The base rate calculation is a capitalization formula. It effectively puts a fixed 8% in the denominator. That's the capitalization rate. The numerator averages two measures of income, cash rent adjusted for property tax payments, and operating income, which is corn and soybean prices, times yields, minus costs. The base rate calculation averages data from the most recent six years, with the highest value not counted. The base rate for this year's tax bill uses data from 2016 through 2021. Next year's base rate uses data from 2017 to 2022.

The big variations in this formula come from corn and soybean prices. The price of corn used in the calculation was under \$4 per bushel from 2015 to 2020. Soybean prices were near \$10 per bushel during those years. The six years of data used to calculate the 2022 base rate of \$1,290 used those prices.

Commodity prices jumped with the pandemic. The corn price used by the DLGF topped \$5 in 2021 and rose above \$6 in 2022. The soybean price increased above \$12 in 2021 and approached \$14 in 2023. The base rate calculation for 2023 tax bills dropped the lower 2015 corn and bean prices and added the higher 2021 prices. For 2024, the lower 2016 prices are dropped in favor of the higher 2022 prices. Including higher prices in the average causes the base rate to increase.

This means that the base rate most likely will continue to increase for tax bills in 2025. All that's required is that commodity prices in 2023 be greater than prices were in 2017. The corn price was under \$4 in 2017 and the soybean price was in the mid-\$9 range. Needless

Larry DeBoer



to say, prices are higher now, so the base rate will rise for 2025. If prices don't fall back to pre-pandemic levels, the base rate will continue to rise through 2028.

Property tax bills will rise for most farmland owners. But they may not rise as much as the increase in the base rate. That's because other assessments are increasing too. The average taxable assessed value of homesteads — owner-occupied primary residences — has increased by 21% for taxes in 2023. Rental housing has an 18% increase, and business land and buildings are rising 10%. Only business equipment is rising slowly, at 2%.

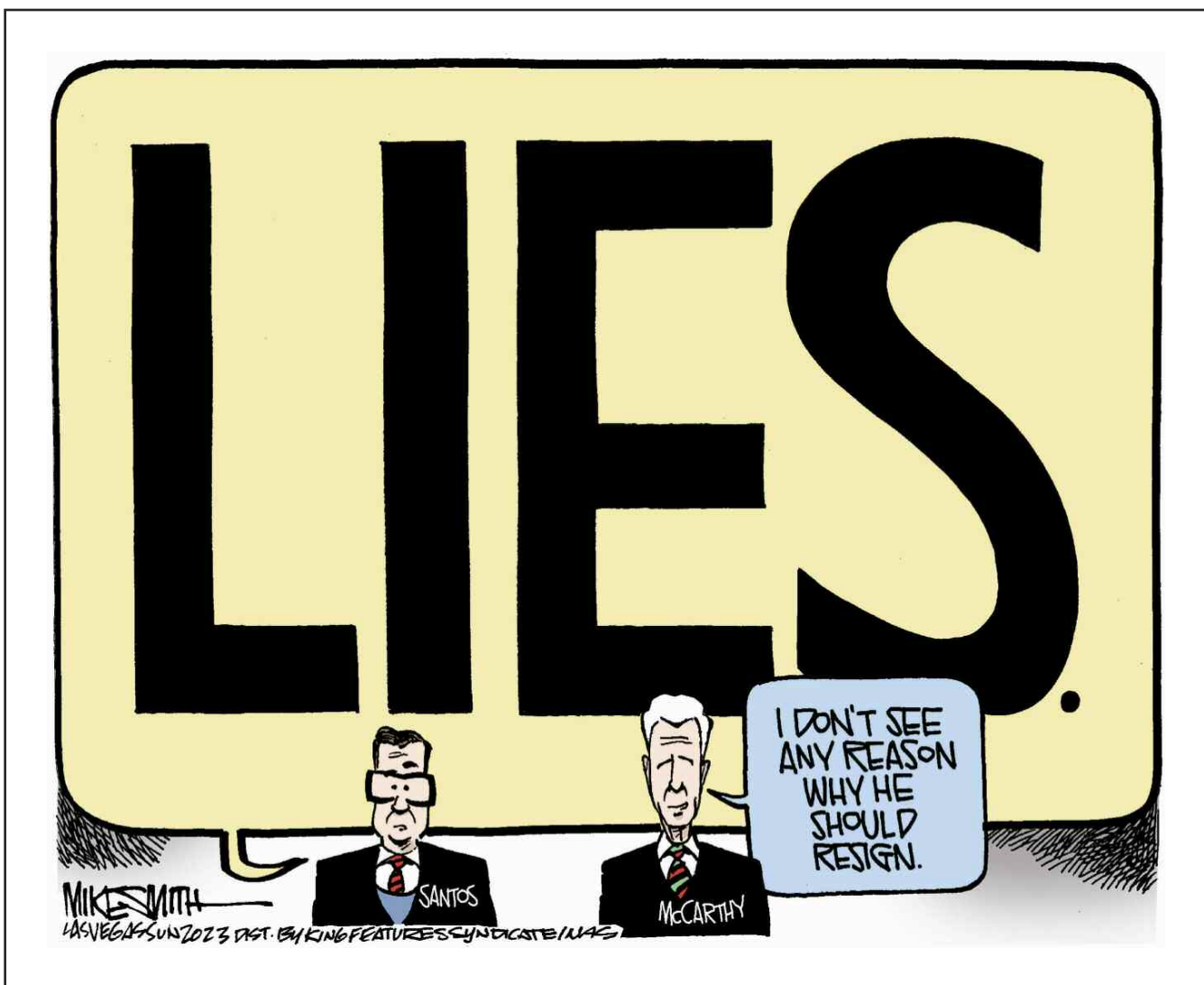
Property tax rates are recalculated each year by dividing local government levies by the assessed value of taxable property within their boundaries. The levy is the revenue that local governments intend to collect from the property tax, and most of it is limited by a state maximum. That limit increased by 5% this year. If taxable assessed value rises by more than that, tax rates will go down. Assessed values are rising a lot more than 5% almost everywhere. Tax rates won't fall enough to erase the tax bill increase for most taxpayers. But tax bills won't rise quite as much as assessed values.

Think of it this way: Local governments set an amount to collect from property taxes, then divvy it up among local property owners, based on the value of their property. Your share increases if the value of your property rises more than others. If everyone's property values increase at the same rate, shares won't change. Tax bills would increase no more than the increase in the levy.

Farmland tax bills will increase, but so will tax bills of homeowners and landlords. Farmland owners will have a lot of company to share the tax bill misery.

DeBoer is a Purdue University agricultural economist.

HSPA Infonet is a content-sharing service for newspapers that are members of Hoosier State Press Association.



Gen Z women will save democracy

By EVE LEVENSON
Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

Young people and women are the key to saving democracy. That's the takeaway from the 2022 midterm elections and what we can expect looking toward the 2024 presidential race. These groups are demanding change on critical issues including reproductive choice, student debt, the climate crisis and more. While this is a point commonly raised by pundits, the importance of one group in particular often goes unmentioned: Generation Z women.

The midterms saw the second-highest level of youth turnout in three decades, with at least 27% of 18- to 29-year-olds turning out to vote nationwide. Historically, the rate has hovered around 20%. The turnout rate was even higher in swing states such as Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. According to data from Tufts University, it was Gen Z women — particularly women of color along with a distinct majority of all LGBTQ+ youth — who were the deciding factor in close congressional races. In Pennsylvania and Arizona, the Gen Z vote exceeded 70%.

As a politically-engaged Gen Z organizer, I'm confident these numbers aren't an anomaly but an indicator of my generation's electoral power moving forward. The next presidential election is just around the corner and there will be even more Gen Z women old enough to vote.

Over the last year, I saw firsthand the galvanizing effect that the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade had on young women and all people who can get pregnant. The Dobbs deci-

Eve Levenson



sion may not have come as a complete shock, but that did not change the visceral reaction I and many of my Gen Z friends and colleagues had when it was announced.

After the Dobbs decision was leaked, I led a protest outside of the Supreme Court with IGNITE, Generation Ratify, Voters of Tomorrow, Gen-Z for Change and dozens of other organizations. In less than 72 hours, we brought together more than 1,000 young protesters in the middle of finals week. The energy that day was powerful and inspiring. Young people came together to mourn the fall of Roe, find solace in community and recommit to the fight for bodily autonomy and choice.

As protests around the country and voter registrations both spiked, it was clear that young women were leading such efforts. Why? Because young women and all people who can become pregnant had the most to lose, and we knew it. Tellingly, Donald Trump himself recently blamed Republicans' disappointing midterm performance on the party's mishandling of Roe.

Thanks in large part to this kind of focused energy, we saw several Gen Z candidates win races in the midterm election cycle. One is Maxwell Frost, my friend and former March For Our Lives col-

league, and the first Gen Zer to join Congress. But several young women trained by IGNITE also won seats, including Munira Abdullahi, who became the first Somali-American elected to the Ohio legislature, Mary Black in Raleigh, North Carolina, who won a city council seat and Kristen Gonzalez, who won a state senate seat in New York. They are each holding different offices in different cities, but are united by a desire to work on behalf of reproductive rights.

Research shows that young women were more likely to prioritize abortion in our decisions to vote and who to vote for. Exit polling says that young voters "were the only age group to cite abortion as #1 priority...but young women, who are often more directly impacted by abortion restrictions, ranked it as a higher priority: 56% compared to 36% for young men."

15 million people will turn 18 by the 2024 presidential election so young women are on track to cast the deciding votes in hundreds of races to come, it is crucial that we are credited. As a youth organizer, I am ecstatic to see young people as a whole being lifted up, and I'm excited to see so many of my male colleagues elevated. But, candidates, pundits and the media need to do a better job of specifically recognizing the voices of young women and nonbinary organizers. Because we are the linchpin of progress.

Levenson is a 23-year-old youth organizer and IGNITE Alum. She is a graduate student at George Washington University pursuing a masters in public administration.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

2-4 CRYPTOQUIP

O E S E N V W N Z Q O W Q B C
P N A W U V Z U J O A G R G Y N T
Z T G E E O P V A G T B , X Q G Z X N S B J

LUNLBU PGBB ZQGZ? VLGPU YGR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A HAIRY "STAR WARS"
REGULAR ON "SESAME STREET" WOULD
LIKELY GET NAMED THE WOOKIEE MONSTER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals H

Trivial Review
(Answers are printed below, upside down.)
U.S. questions
1) What animal is the only marsupial found in the United States and Canada?
2) During his sophomore season at Michigan, what player started at QB in front of Tom Brady?
Answers: 1) Opossum 2) Brian Griese

2-6 CRYPTOQUIP
JVTO FHKETPG GXRUM GXPHNTG
EPHL XVT KHOF FPZGG ZPHROU
XVT EZWPJZM, XVTM LZNT
PHRFV TGXWLZXTG.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF UFOS GOT HIGHLY CONGESTED IN A MAJOR TRAFFIC SNARL, WHAT WOULD PEOPLE CALL THAT? SPACE JAM.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals H

CRYPTO FUN
Solve the code to discover words related to low vision.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 15 = S)
A. 24 2 24 15
Clue: Sight organs
B. 24 8 11 12
Clue: Test
C. 6 16 15 16 3 13
Clue: Ability to see
D. 7 17 11 15 15 24 15
Clue: Aids vision

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to vision.
SPUIPLP
Answers: Pupils
Guess Who?
I am an actress born on February 3, 1976 in Oman. I published two teen novels when I was younger. I went on to a successful movie career, and had a recurring role in the fourth season of the "Arrested Development" series. I am married to a comedic actor.
Answer: Isla Fisher

kids' corner
Illustration of school supplies and a laptop.

HEALTH FACT:
HUMAN HEARTS ARE THE SIZE OF A FIST. WHICH MAMMALS HAVE THE LARGEST HEARTS?
Answer: Whales

Math Blocks
Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.
2 1 7
0 14
7 6 21
19 11 12
Solution grid provided.

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY
FEB 2
1653: THE CITY OF NEW AMSTERDAM, WHICH WILL LATER BE RENAMED THE CITY OF NEW YORK, IS INCORPORATED.
1876: THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CLUBS IS FORMED.
1922: "ULYSSES" BY JAMES JOYCE IS PUBLISHED.

New Word
MURMUR
a recurring sound in the heart usually indicative of disease or damage
Answer: Heart murmur

VISION CHECK WORD SEARCH
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.
WORDS:
ABERROMETER, ALLERGY, ANISOCORIA, ASTIGMATISM, BENIGN, BIFOCAL, BLEPHARITIS, BRIDGE, CATARACT, CHAMBER, COATING, CONE, CORNEA, DIOPTER, DISORDER, GLAUCOMA, LENS, MACULA, OPTICAL, REDNESS, REFRACTIVE, RETINA, SWELLING, TEARS

How they SAY that in...
ENGLISH: Vein
SPANISH: Vena
ITALIAN: Vena
FRENCH: Veine
GERMAN: Vene

Did You Know?
THE BEATING SOUND OF THE HEART IS CAUSED BY THE VALVES OF THE HEART OPENING AND CLOSING.
HEART MONTH

GET THE PICTURE?
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?
ANSWER: STETHOSCOPE

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 34 Faux — 53 Chances, 24 Snoop
1 Texter's 35 Hosiery for short 25 Director Spike
see it" 36 Summer DOWN 26 Remote batteries, often
4 Org. cooler 1 Apple product
8 Fall into a 37 Part of soft chair MPH 2 — -pedi 27 Actor Ferrigno
12 Peace, to 38 Match-making mammals 28 Jungfrau, for one
13 Bangkok outfit 4 Optimally 29 Teeny 31 Surfer's cry
14 Seized 45 Victor's cry 6 Back talk 32 Sports-caster Albert
15 Dollar bill 46 Biblical pronoun 7 "Good effort!"
16 Pear 47 Pioneer-ing ISP 8 — to (in on)
17 Currier's 48 Peddle 9 Jeans maker 34 Search for gold
partner 49 Congers Strauss 35 Nobel-winning Mother
18 Set of 50 Wrigley product 10 Oil cartel 36 Locates
dishes 51 Tag sale 11 Stance type 37 Facial treatments
21 Language 52 Houston 20 Decay 23 Resort
suffix sale 19 Tide
22 Plaything words type
23 Pie-in-the-face acronym 23 Resort
26 Illustrations
27 Murphy's —
30 Get ready, briefly
31 Stable diet?
32 Burrowing critter
33 Sailor's "yes"
Solution time: 26 mins.
YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 2-4
Sources

Crossword grid for Eugene Sheffer puzzle.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Death of a monarch

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
AKQ954
K7
A
A952
WEST
6
1082
KQJ73
10763
EAST
J10732
5
10962
KJ4
SOUTH
8
AQJ9643
854
Q8
The bidding:
South West North East
3♥ Pass 5NT Pass
7♥
Opening lead — king of diamonds. This hand illustrates the usefulness of the rarely used grand slam force convention. North's jump to five notrump asked South to bid seven hearts if he held two of the three top heart honors, and South duly obliged. The grand slam was an excellent contract, but South had to play carefully or he would have gone down. He realized immediately that making 13 tricks would be no problem whatsoever if the spades were divided normally — that is, 3-3 or 4-2 — so he directed all his energies toward coping with a 5-1 division. After taking the diamond lead with the ace, he drew five rounds of trump, producing this position:
North
AKQ95
A9
West
Immaterial
East
J10732
KJ
South
8
64
85
Q8
South now led another trump, discarding a club from dummy. East could not afford to part with a spade, since South would then be able to make the rest of the tricks by ruffing a spade in his hand. So East discarded the jack of clubs, hoping his partner had the queen. Declarer thereupon cashed the A-K-Q of spades, discarding two diamonds from his hand. After the spades failed to divide favorably, he played the ace of clubs, hoping East had been forced to unguard the king. When the monarch obligingly appeared, South was well rewarded for the extra care he had taken to guard against a bad spade break.
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
3
AQ863
J108
KJ84
WEST
KJ107
K9752
Q632
—
EAST
542
4
K74
A109652
SOUTH
AQ986
J10
A95
Q73
The bidding:
West North East South
2♥ Pass 2NT Pass
3♥ Pass 3♣ Pass
3NT
Opening lead — two of diamonds. Today's deal occurred in the 1990 world team championship final between Germany and the United States, narrowly won by Germany. The Germans got off to a slow start, losing heavily on this, the very first board of the 64-deal match. When Jochen Bitschene and Bernhard Ludewig of Germany held the North-South hands, the bidding went as shown. North's two-heart opening showed five hearts, four clubs and 10-15 points, and two rounds later, Ludewig found himself in three notrump.
West won his partner's diamond return with the queen and exited with a diamond to dummy's jack, but he found himself right back on lead on the next trick when Ludewig, spotting a sure-fire end-play, conceded the heart six to West's seven. After cashing his good diamond — the defenders' fourth trick — West had to return a heart from the 9-5 to dummy's Q-8 or lead a spade into South's A-Q. Either way, Ludewig was sure to gain his ninth trick. This appeared to be an excellent result, but at the other table, with Germany now East-West, the bidding took an unexpected turn:
West North East South
1♥ Pass 3♣ Dble Pass Pass Pass
West's one-heart bid showed 10-15 points with a heart suit and perhaps a minor suit on the side. East's three-club response was weak, and Charles Coon of the U.S. found the winning action by doubling. Mike Moss, North, was delighted to leave the double in, and when the smoke cleared, the Germans were down four for -800 and a 9-IMP loss on the deal.
Tomorrow: Dangerous waters ahead.
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 Stephen of "Still Crazy" 58 Hinder 11 Autobahn
1 Skyline concealer 59 Ballot markings 16 Wager
4 Rounded roofs 41 Boxing stats 20 Gator's kin
9 Buddy 43 Sadat's predecessor 21 Woodland grazer
12 "Hail, Caesar!" 45 One-celled creature 22 Sea eagle
14 "Alley —" 47 Yucatan "Bravo!" 23 Terry-cloth item
15 Hidden danger 48 Squabble 27 Part of TNT
17 Verse by Pablo Neruda 49 Drink with tapioca pearls 29 Genealogy chart
18 LAX info 54 Rage 30 Calendar span
19 Buffalo coin 55 Paris school 32 Rice wine
21 Borrower 56 Rainbow 34 Elevate
24 Scurry 57 Costa — Sol bike, say 37 Rose and fell on the sea
25 Epoch 38 Business mag
26 Petty peeve
28 Like Santa's laundry
31 Tolkien creatures
33 Raw mineral
35 Heal
36 Detox center
38 Business mag
Solution time: 21 mins.
SATURDAY'S ANSWER 2-6
Coolers

Crossword grid for Eugene Sheffer puzzle.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Hereafter, anything with powdered sugar on it will be eaten in the kitchen."

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"I don't even wanna THINK about PJ getting into the Terrible Twos."

Peanuts



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



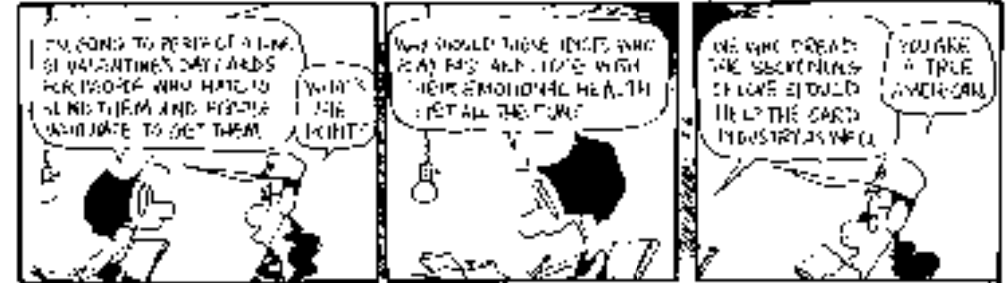
Rose is Rose



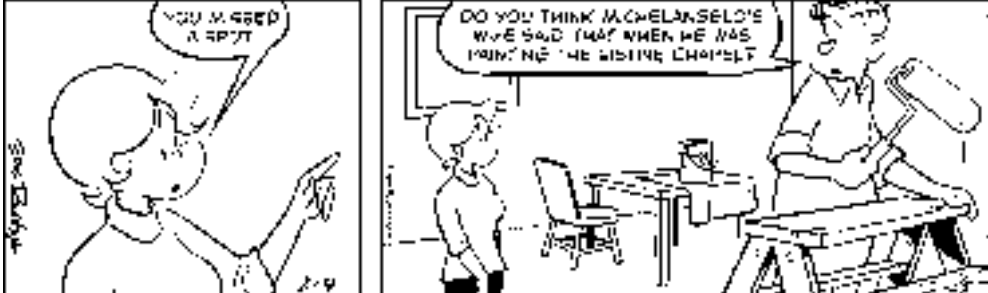
Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



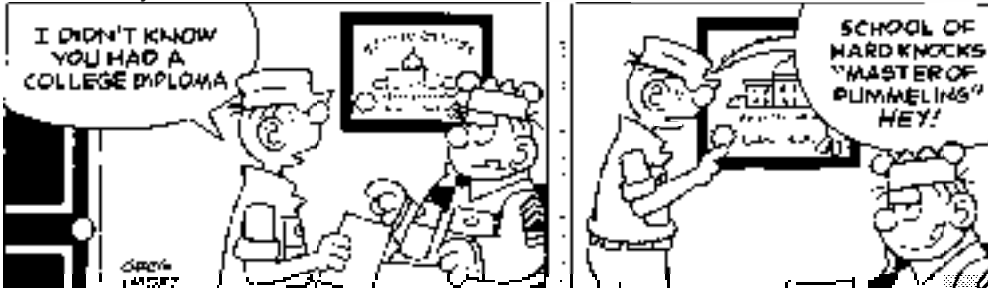
Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



We Deliver



Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

Jay gymnasts visit Devils on Monday, see Sports on tap

Get all of your local sports information online by visiting thecr.com

Sports

Triple knock out

Hamilton Heights uses 3-point shooting prowess to eliminate Class 3A No. 2 Patriots from sectional for third year in a row

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Over the last month, the Patriots had beaten every team they played by at least 25 points.

Their overall winning streak was 22 games, with the closest of those a nine-point win over No. 10 Belmont.

When they found themselves down by double digits in the first quarter to the only team that had beaten them all year, they simply could not recover.

The host Hamilton Heights Huskies played a nearly flawless first 12 minutes, rolling out to a 24-6 lead as they sent the Class 3A No. 2 Jay County High School girls basketball team home for the season for the third year in a row. The Patriots got within eight early in the second half of the Sectional 24 semifinal game, but no closer, in a 58-47 loss that ended one of the most successful seasons in the history of the program.

"We were confused defensively," said JCHS coach Kirk Comer. "We were not switching on screens. The game plan that we had, not letting them have open looks — they had open looks and they knocked them down. And we didn't match that. They came out and hit us in the gut. We didn't hit them back."

The Huskies (18-5), who finished 11th in the final Class 3A poll voting of the season, advance to tonight's sectional championship game. They will play Yorktown (11-11), which topped Frankton 43-35 in Friday's second semifinal. The winner will move on to a one-game regional Feb. 11 at Belmont against the winner of the Sectional 23 tournament hosted by Norwell.

Jay County had just one lead Friday — 2-0.

The Huskies quickly erased it with the first of their 13 makes from long distance. They continued to bury 3-pointer after 3-pointer, pushing to a 15-4 advantage on junior Camryn Runner's second triple at the 2:14 mark of the opening period.

Gabi Bilbrey — she finished with a game-high 26 points to give the Patriots a chance — scored the first points of the second period to close the gap back to single digits. But Hamilton Heights responded with consecutive 3-point-

Box score				
Class 3A No. 2 Jay County Patriots vs. Hamilton Heights Huskies				
Sectional semifinal at Hamilton Heights				
Girls varsity summary				
Hamilton Heights (18-5)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Hickok	5-7	3-4	18	
Brown	4-7	4-6	15	
Runner	3-4	5-7	15	
Rhoton	2-9	1-2	7	
Schakel	0-2	0-0	0	
Cherry	1-1	1-2	3	
Totals	15-30	14-21	47	.500 .667
Jay County (23-2)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Muhlenkamp	1-6	2-2	4	
Saxman	0-0	2-8	2	
McIntire	2-5	0-0	5	
MDirksen	0-1	0-0	0	
Bilbrey	9-12	8-11	26	
Denton	0-0	0-0	0	
Schwietrmn	3-12	2-2	8	
BDirksen	1-3	0-0	2	
May	0-0	0-0	0	
Petro	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	16-39	14-23	47	.410 .609
Score by quarters:				
HHHS	15	12	10	21—58
Jay Co.	4	9	12	22—47



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Gabi Bilbrey goes up for a shot amidst several host Hamilton Heights defenders during the second quarter of Friday's Class 3A Sectional 24 semifinal game. The second-ranked Patriots fell behind by 18 in the first half and were unable to come back despite Bilbrey's game-high 26 points.

ers from Kaylee Rhoton, Ella Hickok and Runner for their 18-point lead.

The Huskies shot 9-of-17 from 3-point range in the first half — they attempted just one shot from inside the arc — and finished the game 13-of-26 (50%) from long distance.

"I see them do it every day," said Hamilton Heights coach Keegan Cherry, whose team beat JCHS 46-42 in the 2021 sectional final and 36-33 in the opening round of the tournament last season. "We shoot a lot in practice. I expect them to make it. ... When they shoot it, I'm shocked when it doesn't go in."

With the Huskies holding the ball to run the clock at the start of the second half, it looked as if Jay County might have a chance to make a run. A turnover led to a Sophie Saxman free throw closed the gap to eight with 4:41 on the clock.

Two-time defending champion Hamilton Heights, though, responded, with Katie Brown hitting a 3-pointer and Hickok scoring off of a steal.

That remained the pattern the rest of the way, with the Huskies responding when JCHS seemed ready to build a little momentum.

"When you get down that far against this team, it's really hard to come back because they spread

it out," said Comer. "They're so good at that. ... They can handle the ball really well. It's hard to double."

Hickok's 18 points, including five 3-pointers, led Hamilton Heights. Runner and Brown each hit three triples as they followed with 15 apiece.

Bilbrey shot 9-of-12 from the field and 8-of-11 at the line for her 26 points. But

no other Patriot reached double figures.

Schwieterman, who entered the game averaging 21.8 points, was limited to just eight of 3-of-12 shooting from the field as Hickok hounded her all night long. Her career came to a close when she fouled out with 2:14 left when she was called for a charge.

Though the Patriots

knew Hamilton Heights was the hurdle they would need to clear in order to achieve their goals, the loss still marked what seemed a too-early end to a year that saw them set new school records for wins in a season (23) and longest winning streak (22), Schwieterman become the leading scorer in the history of the program and county, and

Comer surpass the 400-win mark.

"We thought we could make a run in the tournament, but we also knew that we could get beat tonight," said Comer. "All's you want is a chance. We had a chance."

"To be honest, we didn't get the job done. They stepped up and we didn't. They're moving on and we're not."

Big second period powers win for Indians

MINSTER, Ohio — A dominant second period was all the Indians needed.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team had its highest scoring quarter in the second while locking down the Minster Wildcats on defense and went on to a 58-47 victory Friday night.

The teams were tied at 11

after the opening period. And they played essentially even in the second half.

But the second quarter belonged to the Tribe.

Fort Recovery (11-8, 3-5 Midwest Athletic Conference) limited the Wildcats to just two second-period field goals. Meanwhile, it scored 19 points, with eight different players

getting in on the act. Troy Homan and Cale Rammel each had two points, Landon Post hit a 3-pointer and Rex Leverette, Daniel Patch, Reece Guggenbiller and Riggs Tobe each had two.

The effort staked the Indians to a 13-point halftime lead that they were able to carry through to the victory.

Rammel racked up nine points each in the first and third quarters en route to a game-high 25. Homan followed with nine points and Patch scored seven.

Kole Richard hit a couple of 3-pointers and tallied 16 points for Minster.

The Indians have a week off before returning home to take

on New Knoxville on Friday. They will then close the regular-season with a visit to Newton Local on Feb. 11 and a home game against New Bremen on Feb. 17.

Seeding for the sectional tournament will be announced Sunday.

Fort Recovery also won the junior varsity game, 55-52.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Wrestling hosts regional — 9 a.m.; Girls swimming hosts sectional — 9 a.m.; diving, 1 p.m.; swimming; Boys basketball at Northeastern — noon

Fort Recovery — Eighth grade boys basketball in Midwest Athletic Conference Tournament at New Knoxville — 10 a.m.; Seventh grade boys basketball in Midwest Athletic Conference Tournament at Coldwater — 10 a.m.

Monday
Jay County — Gymnastics at Richmond — 6 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Heritage — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high swimming vs. Delta — 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Junior high girls swimming at Norwell Invitational — 5 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. Driver — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Freshman boys basketball at Celina — 6 p.m.; Eighth grade boys basketball in Midwest Athletic Conference Tournament at New Knoxville — 5:30 p.m.

TV sports

Today
7:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Arsenal at Everton (USA)
10 a.m. — NFL football: Pro Bowl Skills Showdown (ESPN2)
10 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Leicester City at Aston Villa (USA)
Noon — Men's college basketball: Virginia at Virginia Tech (ESPN2); Kansas at Iowa State (ESPN); Connecticut at Georgetown (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — Soccer: Premier League — West Ham United at New Castle United (NBC)
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Texas Tech at Baylor (CBS); Wake Forest at Notre Dame (Bally Indiana); Morgan State at Delaware State (TNT)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Auburn at Tennessee (ESPN); Butler at Marquette (FS1); Florida State at Louisville (ESPN2)
2:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Illinois at Iowa (FOX); George Mason at Loyola Chicago (USA)
3 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour - AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (CBS)

3 p.m. — NHL hockey: Team Central vs. Team Pacific (ABC)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Purdue at Indiana (ESPN); Texas at Kansas State (ESPN2)
4 p.m. — Men's college hockey: Notre Dame at Michigan State (BTN)
4 p.m. — NHL hockey: Team Metropolitan vs. Team Atlantic (ABC)
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: St. John's at Xavier (FOX)
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Bradley at Northern Iowa (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Carolina at Duke (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college hockey: Penn State at Ohio State (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Villanova at Creighton (FOX)
8:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Golden State Warriors (ABC)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Florida at Kentucky (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Maryland at Minnesota (BTN)
9 p.m. — Mix martial arts — Bellator 290 (CBS)
9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Washington at USC (FS1)

10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oregon at Arizona State (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Gonzaga at Saint Mary's (ESPN)

Sunday
9 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Leeds United at Nottingham Forest (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Manchester City at Tottenham Hotspur (NBC)
Noon — Men's college basketball: DePaul at Seton Hall (FS1); Fordham at Richmond (USA)
Noon — Women's college basketball: South Carolina at Connecticut (FOX); Iowa at Penn State (BTN); North Carolina at Louisville (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ohio State at Michigan (CBS)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Missouri State at Southern Illinois (Bally Indiana)
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: LSU at Texas A&M (ESPN2); Indiana at Purdue (FS1)
3 p.m. — NFL football: Pro Bowl (ABC, ESPN)

3 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour — AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (CBS)
4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Ohio State at Maryland (ESPN2)
4:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Penn State at Nebraska (BTN)
5 p.m. — NBA basketball: Cleveland Cavaliers at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
6 p.m. — NBA basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at New York Knicks (ESPN)
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Houston at Temple (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Northwestern at Wisconsin (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Stanford at Colorado (FS1)
8 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Cup Series — Busch Light Clash (FOX)

Monday
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Duke at Miami (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Nebraska at Northwestern (BTN)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Texas at Kansas (ESPN)

Tuesday
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-

ball: Marquette at Connecticut (FS1); Rutgers at Indiana (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Auburn at Texas A&M (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Phoenix Suns at Brooklyn Nets (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: St. John's at Butler (FS1); Minnesota at Illinois (BTN)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Oklahoma City Thunder at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)

Wednesday
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nebraska at Michigan (BTN); Creighton at Seton Hall (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at Boston Celtics (ESPN); Indiana Pacers at Miami Heat (Bally Indiana)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: DePaul at Villanova (FS1); Wisconsin at Penn State (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Minnesota Wild at Dallas Stars (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)